

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement figures 6-9 are filed herewith on appropriately identified Replacement Sheets. The supplied replacement sheets amend figures 6-9 by replacing reference character “22” with “26” to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4).

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted in response to the Official Action dated September 17, 2008. Claims 1, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 14-15, and 17 are amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "22" was used to designate "contoured pocket" (figures 1, 11, 13 and 14), "sealing rings" (figures 6-9), "sampling chamber" (specification, page 24, line 16), and "port" (specification, page 24, line 16). In the replacement sheets, figures 6-9 of the drawings are amended to replace reference character "22" with "26," and the specification (paragraphs beginning at page 12, line 25; page 18, line 16; page 20, line 8; page 20, line 19; page 22, line 7; page 22, line 14; page 24, line 15; page 27, line 16; and page 28, line 15) is amended so that the reference character "22" now only identifies the sample chamber and that reference character 26 identifies the sealing rings. Additionally, the term "port" is replaced with "sample chamber." The specification is further amended to replace "FIG. 8(D)" with "FIG. 11" (paragraphs beginning at page 24, line 15, and page 25, line 5).

The Examiner objected to the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 14, of the specification. This paragraph is amended to replace "chamber 326" with "chamber 325" and to correct other labeling inconsistencies.

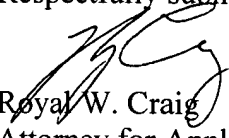
The Examiner objected to claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 17 for informalities. Claim 1 is amended to replace "said transducer(s)" with "said at least one transducer." The Applicant asserts that in claim 3, "the blood sample" is inappropriate because a sufficient antecedent basis to use the definite article "the" is not provided in claim 3, and thus, the indefinite article "a" is appropriate. Claim 5 is amended to replace "pivoting door" with "a pivoting door." Claim 8 is

amended to replace "slidable carriage" with "a slidable carriage." Claim 9 is amended to replace "electronically controlled-unlatching" with "electronically-controlled unlatching." Claim 11 is amended to replace "processor" with "a processor." Claim 17 is amended to replace "A disposable" with "a disposable."

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 is amended to replace "pulse generator" with "signal generator." Claim 6 is amended to clarify that the "door is spring-biased to an open position." Claim 11 is amended to replace "said analyzer" with "an analysis unit," which is subsequently defined in the claim. Claims 14 and 15 are amended to be dependent upon claim 12. Claim 17 is amended to indicate that the analysis unit in the first element is the same component in the second element. Claim 17 is further amended to replace "said measured physical parameter" with "measuring said time of flight of ultrasound."

In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicant asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance. As the amendments do not introduce any new issues into the present application, entry and allowance are believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX A